

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the subject application:

1. (Currently Amended) An oven assembly for the cooking of food products, the oven assembly comprising:

a cooking chamber defined at least in part by a first pair of oppositely disposed first and second wall structures, each of the first and second wall structures including a plurality of spaced apart openings for the passage of air therethrough; and

a rotating valve comprising at least one side wall forming a hollow cylinder with first and second opposed open ends, a separator wall disposed within said hollow cylinder separating said first and second opposed open ends, and said at least one side wall forming diametrically opposed first and second fluid openings disposed on opposite sides of said separator wall and ~~having at least two fluid openings~~ revolvable around a longitudinal axis of rotation of said rotating valve, said rotating valve in both heated air receiving communication and return air communication with a heat source, the rotating valve in heated air distributing communication with the first wall structure and in return air communication with the second wall structure of the first pair of oppositely disposed first and second wall structures at a selected point in time such that heated air is passed through the

plurality of spaced apart openings in the first wall structure into the cooking chamber and return air from the cooking chamber is passed through the plurality of spaced apart openings in the oppositely disposed second wall structure and to the rotating valve for return to the heat source, the rotating valve being capable of rotation to be in heated air distributing communication with the second wall structure and in return air communication with the first wall structure.

2. (Original) The oven assembly of claim 1 additionally comprising the heat source, wherein the heat source comprises a burner assembly.

3. (Original) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the cooking chamber comprises a baking chamber for the baking of selected food products.

4. (Original) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the cooking chamber is sized to stationarily contain at least one food-carrying rack within the cooking chamber, the rack including a plurality of support members for carrying the food products.

Serial No.: 09/835,078

5. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is continuously rotatable.

6. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is rotatable at a rate of about one-half to five revolutions per minute.

7. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is rotatable in a back and forth fashion.

8. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 1 wherein the cooking chamber surrounds the food products being cooked and the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is rotatable such that the food products are cooked with even heat energy distribution while the food products remain stationary.

9. (Currently Amended) A commercial baking oven assembly for the baking of food products, the oven assembly comprising:

Serial No.: 09/835,078

a baking chamber defined at least in part by a first pair of oppositely disposed first and second wall structures, each of the first and second wall structures including a plurality of spaced apart opening for the passage of air therethrough and a generally cylindrical shaped rotating valve comprising a cylindrical shaped side wall forming first and second opposed open ends, ~~and~~ a laterally disposed opening proximate each of said open ends and a transversely oriented separator wall disposed between said laterally disposed openings and separating said first and second opposed open ends from each other, said rotating valve in both heated air receiving communication and return air communication with a burner assembly, the rotating valve in heated air distributing communication with the first wall structure and in return air communication with the second wall structure of the first pair of oppositely disposed wall structures at a selected point in time such that heated air is passed through the plurality of openings in the first wall structure into the baking chamber and return air from the baking chamber is passed through the plurality of openings in the oppositely disposed second wall structure and to the rotating valve for return to the burner assembly, the rotating valve being capable of rotation to be in heated air distributing communication with the second wall structure and in return air communication with the first wall structure of the first pair of oppositely disposed wall structures at a subsequent selected point in time.

10. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 9 wherein the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is continuously rotatable.

11. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 9 wherein the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is rotatable at a rate of about one-half to five revolutions per minute.

12. (Currently Amended) The oven assembly of claim 9 wherein the cooking chamber surrounds the food products being cooked and the rotating valve ~~rotates~~ is rotatable such that the food products are cooked with even heat energy distribution while the food products remain stationary.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an oven for the cooking of food products with even heat energy distribution, the oven including a cooking chamber defined at least in part by a first pair of oppositely disposed first and second wall structures, each of the first and second wall structures including a plurality of spaced apart openings for the passage of air therethrough, the oven including a generally cylindrical shaped rotating valve in both heated air receiving

Serial No.: 09/835,078

communication and return air communication with a heat source, said method comprising:

passing heated air from the heat source through one of a first open end and an opposed second open end of a cylindrical housing of the cylindrical shaped rotating valve, said first open end and said second open end separated by a separation wall disposed within said cylindrical housing, through one of a first cylindrical housing side wall opening disposed on a first open end side of said separation wall and a second cylindrical housing side wall opening disposed on a second open end side of said separation wall, and through the spaced apart openings in the first wall structure into the cooking chamber, and passing return air from the cooking chamber through the spaced apart openings in the second wall structure and through the other of said first cylindrical housing side wall opening and said second cylindrical side wall opening and through the other of said first open end and said second open end of the rotating valve to the heat source; and

rotating the rotating valve ~~to pass~~ whereby flow of heated air from the heat source through the rotating valve and through the spaced apart openings in the second wall structure into the cooking chamber; and flow of return air from the cooking chamber through the spaced apart openings in the first wall structure is reversed.

Serial No.: 09/835,078

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the rotating valve rotates continuously.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the rotating valve rotates at a rate of about one-half to five revolutions per minute.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the rotating valve rotates in a back and forth fashion.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the cooking chamber surrounds the food products being cooked and the rotating valve rotates such that the food products are cooked with even heat energy distribution while the food products remain stationary.

Claims 18 - 24 (Cancelled)